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Momentous to Democrats.

The American form of government is predicated upon the existence of two or more contending parties, and it is to the interest of every citizen that each one of these should be as clean and as competent as possible.

If the Republicans had no serious opposition since the Civil war, as for a long time appeared likely to be the case, the civil population would by now be probably made up of plutocrats, sweatshop laborers and federal pensioners, and the other elements would have had to seek for themselves elsewhere a kinder place in the sun.

If the Democrats had assumed office for an assured perpetuity in the good year 1912, no matter under what enlightened leader, we tremble to think of the reforms, idealists and incompetent bureaucrats that would by this date have this country in their clutches.

It does not behoove anybody of ordinary patriotism to wish the Republicans assembled at Chicago anything but well in their deliberations.

Neither Democrats, Prohibitionists, Socialists nor members of the new labor party can afford to hope that a party numbering somewhere around half the voting population will stultify itself, or run off after the mammon of unrighteousness.

Democrats should welcome an opposition headed by some strong patriot, standing on a fine American platform, in order that the Democratic party itself may see that it is essential to keep its own house in order.

The Republicans declared up till a few days ago that they could win with any kind of a candidate, and therefore they thought quite safe to let their candidates play merry hob with morals and convictions as they fought for the nomination. Now they are in sackcloth and ashes, for they see that the Democrats will surely carry the country if given a clear-cut moral issue to fight on.

There are racial and racialist Democrats just as surely as there are Republicans, and the latter have to be threatened by a Republican club before they can get their own consent to behave.

It may be, as has been suggested, though not within the most recent weeks, that this is to be a Republican year. If that is so, what the party is doing at Chicago is momentous to the Democrats and all alike who propose to remain in this country for a habitation.

What is most devoutly to be wished is first of all that the Republicans bear their convention responsibilities soberly and prayerfully and put forward a good man and a good platform, and second, that the Democrats assembling at San Francisco refuse to be outdone and make a similar offering to the country.

And then that voters may exercise their right of suffrage with full and proper discrimination, but with the comforting sense that they can not go very far wrong in either case.

For several campaigns now, in the opinion of some well-meaning and enlightened people, just such a state of affairs has obtained.

Why shouldn't it?

No Oil in Armenia.

"Evidently no oil has been struck yet in Armenia," one of the American peace delegates is reported to have remarked in Paris last year in reply to the solicitations of some foreign delegates who wanted this country to assume the honor and expense of policing Armenia.

Oil has been struck, however, in Mosul, which is in Northern Mesopotamia, which is in the same part of the world and about as remote as Armenia, and consequently both the British and French governments are claiming the mandate for that place. When heated in parliament about the expense he was putting the public exchequer to, occupying Mesopotamia, Mr. Lloyd George merely pronounced the word of the hostile monarchs changed to his pleasure. About the same time the French foreign minister obtained a similar tribute to his ambitious Eastern policy when he explained that there was certainly oil in Mosul.

The world wants only that oil may yet be struck in Armenia, in which case the vexing Armenian question will settle itself. Armenia is a poor little orphan when nobody wants to care for her, but if it should be discovered that the child is a multimillionaire in her own right, there would be quite a number of applicants to provide her with care and attention.

ALLIES TO MEET.

PARIS, June 9. A conference between representatives of the allies and the German government is expected to be held in the near future.

THE SPEAR AND PRUNING HOOK.

The decision of Gen. Pershing to retire from active service does not diminish the esteem in which he is everywhere held, especially in view of the ground he has won for his army, as long as matters were reasonably held during the late important campaign.

The general had rather won the pruning hook than hold the spear in his hands.

Gen. Pershing is 50 years old, and not all men would have the vitality at such a time of life to have an assured position of great honor and power to start for themselves a new career.

The general comes out of the army with one of the limited number of military records of the first importance untarnished by any fault or failing.

Whatever this soldier undertakes, we prophesy that it will be a tried out

with a minimum of noise and a maximum of efficiency, and no investigating committee will have to come after him to find out the cause of his failure.

It will be a full-sized man's work, too, and a good time job. This is evident from what the general says as to his objections to the military life in peace times. "It now appears that my duties are not likely to be of a portion of my time."

Positively the general is not out for politics, or he would have made this announcement something like a month or so ago. This fact too is in his favor, for it implies that there is at least one great man who is too modest to think himself qualified for an office for which he has had no training, and too outspoken, direct, and businesslike to care for the methods by which the successful politicians succeed.

France Is Herself Again.

From France comes the good news that the wheat crop for this year will be far in excess of last year's. This piece of news comes by way of an English cable apparently, because it talks about "corn" instead of wheat, like the King James Bible, but unlike the great American language. At any rate, France can have nearly all the wheat she can eat, and look forward to importing only a paltry 5,000,000 bushels where last year she imported 15,000,000.

For the first time since 1914 it is likely that the French bakers and housewives will be permitted to make white bread again. The dark bread they made of war flour was regarded by many of our doughboys who ought to know as rather superior to our own average baker's white bread, but it is not in the same class with the true French white bread of the ante bellum days.

With abundance of white flour again it is expected that a point will be attained in favor of sugar, and that the wonder of French cookery, "de gateaux," will come into its own again. The bulk of our overseas forces got to France too late to hunt the French cake in its native haunts, by reason of the row started by the forces who did get there early enough. These short-sighted persons professed their horror at seeing so much sugar and white flour being made up into insubstantial French cookies when America was rationing herself to get supplies over to a population advertised as starving.

They did not know of some of the delightful anomalies of French character, probably not having read of the logical response which a ruler of France once made to a disagreeable party complaining that the people were famishing for lack of bread: "Then let the people eat cake."

France is a country which is willing to do without the necessities of life provided she can have the luxuries. Her allies would not let her practice this philosophy during the war, but now she is preparing for happy days, and France can once more be recommended to the tourists who want to find in one small land all the refinements of civilization.

Prohibition for Ambassadors.

In the movies the villainous diplomat always carries around a stock of intoxicating beverages to use in his trade, and one or more scenes show the gullest patriot lured to his den and fed up on the demon rum till he is ready to sign away life or country.

Nevertheless, by a ruling of Attorney General Palmer, no endeavor will be made to enforce the prohibition laws at the expense of the foreign ambassadors residing in Washington. They may drink all they care to import from their native shores, and doubtless in the hospitality of our establishments they can do it out to their American visitors, whose name we prophesy will be legion.

Really it would have been a shame to have insisted that these accredited diplomats should keep as dry as we ask of our own native sons. We might as well have told them not to appear at the office levees in anything more dazzling than our American black and white, and under no circumstances to be seen wearing ribbons, medals, or other un-American decorations.

The prohibition cause will hardly be impaired by the exception made in honor of the tastes of our distinguished guests. Let them drink after the old diplomatic rule. Herodotus tells about a noble race of the conduct of the public business, used always to take two votes upon any new matter, before considering it as good, one vote taken sober, and one vote taken drunk. Perhaps it is the same way with the ambassadors in Washington, and we would be doing great disrespect to their native gods to interfere with their sacred customs.

ADDITIONAL WOMEN TO G. O. P. BOARD FAVORED.

CHICAGO, June 9. The committee on rules by unanimous vote yesterday recommended to the convention that the executive committee of the national Republican committee be increased from 10 to 15, so as to give women representation.

The vote was taken after a delegation from the Western states of the United States had been admitted to the convention.

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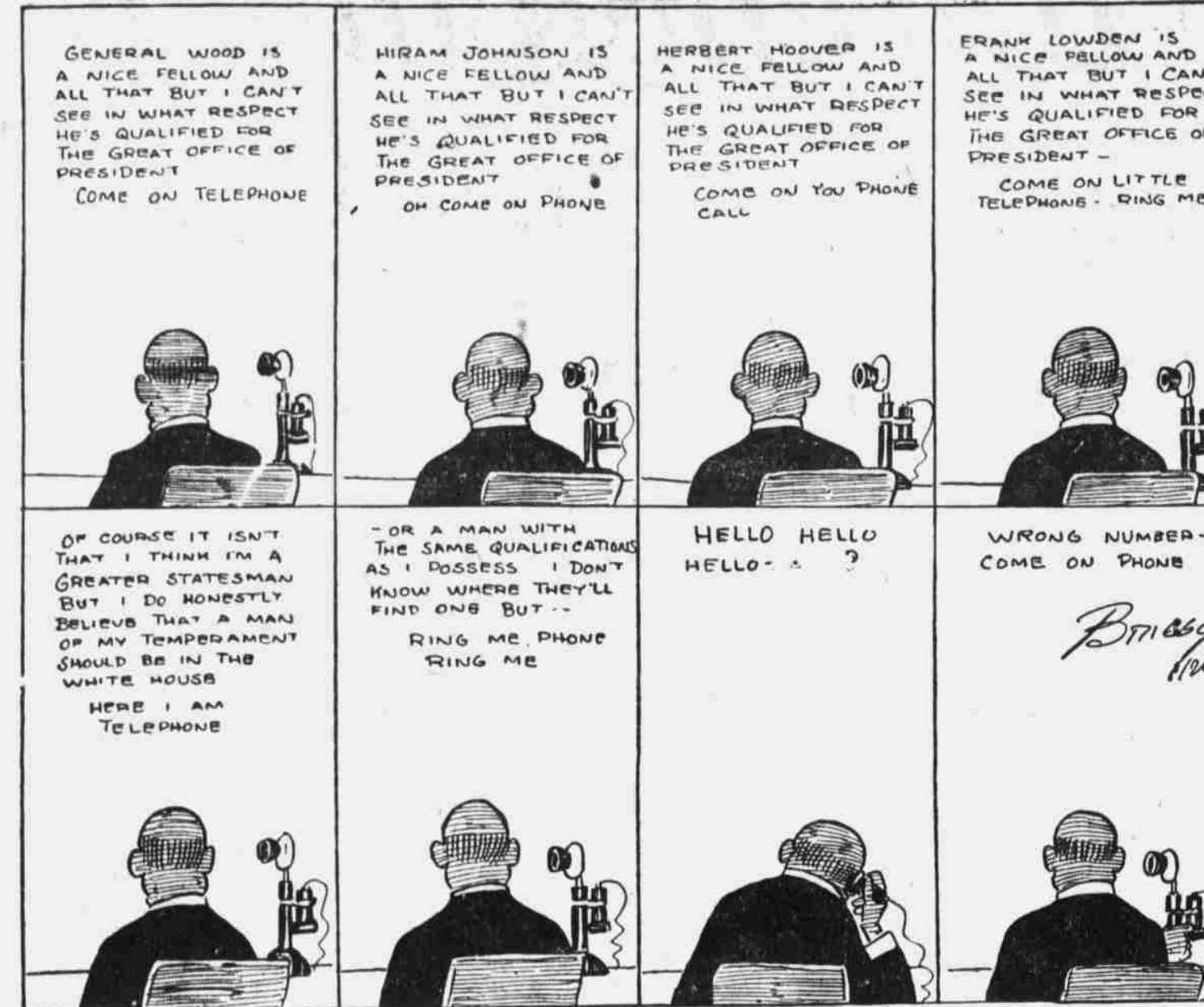
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Wonder What a Dark Horse Candidate Thinks About—By Briggs

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What city in the United States covers the most ground?—L. M. C.

A—It seems that this honor belongs to Los Angeles with its 357.9 square miles. New York city is a close second with 245 square miles.

Q—When does the sun reach the point farthest north?—E. L. F.

A—On June 21, at 40 minutes past noon (Eastern standard time) the sun reaches the highest point in the heavens. This will be the longest day of the year, the day being six hours and two minutes longer than the night in the latitude of 40 degrees north.

Q—Please give information regarding Liberia, Africa.—B. M.

A—Liberia is a republic on the western coast of Africa under negro control, having an area of about 45,000 square miles. The territory was acquired by the American Colonization society, founded in 1817.

Q—What was the old-fashioned ceremony known as the "Stubblecull"?—W. F. A.

A—Years ago in the Middle West, when wheat was harvested with sickle and flail, it was the custom, when the last shock was capped and finished, to stack all the rakes around it, thrust the sickles into it, and then the whole company of harvesters formed a circle and at a signal given by the captain of the reapers gave three cheers. They listened for the echo. If it replies three times it was accounted a good omen for the year.

Q—How did the American Indian cast his vote in his war council?—T. T. A.

A—When a question was to be decided, the Indian chief picked up his war club and passed it to the warrior nearest to him. If this man was of the affirmative side he struck the ground with the club, then passed it to his next neighbor. If on the negative side, it was passed at once and in silence.

Q—Who coined the expression "Blood is thicker than water"?—K. H. B.

A—This is credited to Josiah Tattnall, an American naval officer. In 1820, while flag officer of our squadron in Asiatic waters, he chattered a small river steamer. The steamer was to take the American minister to Peking.

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Oh, Oh; Girl's Beau In Widow's Clutches

BY MRS. ELIZABETH THOMPSON.

Dear Mrs. Thompson—I am a girl 21 years of age and have been going with a boy of the same age for five years. Now he has quit me on account of an old grass widow. I love him, and what must I do to get him to come back to see me again? Must I write or not? He says he loves me. B. R. S.

There is not a chance for you. You might as well scrape up another beau, for when a grass widow gets her system to working it is all off with the other girl. Men just naturally like them, and do not ask me, for I have never been one. You might write him twice a day without the slightest effect, so I would not waste my stamps.

Dear Mrs. Thompson—Which should go first, the boy or the girl, when going in or coming out of a theater or church? When a girl goes to a soda fountain to buy a drink and a boy at the same time is drinking one, and who, on finishing, throws down the money for both drinks, what should the girl do? Should she insist on paying for her drink? How long will it be before fall hats will come in?

The man always precedes the woman in going into a theater or church, but when seating her the girl goes first. No, if it is his pleasure to pay for the drink, simply thank him and say no more about it. Fall hats will be placed on sale about July.

Dear Mrs. Thompson—Please tell me what is the matter. I was engaged to a young man two years past and he broke the engagement a week before the wedding was to take place, saying the responsibility was too much at that time. Four weeks later he married another girl whom he is divorced from now. I think I was lucky in that case, but did not at all time. July, 1919, I started going with another young man and learned to think a whole lot of him. He asked me to marry him, and I love him, but I was afraid he might be fooling me, so I told him to wait a year. He said he would wait, and I love him now. I do not see how I am going to give him up, but he is to be married in the latter part of the month. Do you think he did me exactly right, when he waited so long? I was waiting for him to marry another girl? He wants me to still be his friend and to meet his wife and children. Shall I return the ring or wait?

Dear Mrs. Thompson—I am 18 years of age and am engaged to a young man 34, but he does not show much affection toward me. Please tell me how long a young man should wait to answer a girl's letter. WORRIED.

If I knew how to bring about such impossibilities as making opposites love, or telling others how to do it, you may rest assured I would not be sitting here pecking on a typewriter in a vain effort to enjoy my millions elsewhere. Yes, I think you are too young for this man, who is evidently doing his best of you as a sweetheart. It all depends upon the nature of the letter. If it is a nice friendly letter he should answer at once.

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